

## Message Text

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47

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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APPROVED BY EA - MR. ARTHUR W. HUMMEL

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R 071532 Z APR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

UNCLAS STATE 065079

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/ A.

TAGS: PFOR, SN

SUBJ: SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF LEE KUAN YEW APPEARANCE  
AT NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCH APRIL 6:

2. IN HIS PREPARED REMARKS, LEE ENGAGED IN GENERAL DISCUS-  
SION TITLED " SUPER POWER POLITICS AND SOUTHEAST ASIA IN THE  
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LATER 70' S" IN WHICH HE CONCLUDED THAT A BALANCED BIG POWER PRESENCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA IS MORE DESIRABLE THAN PREPONDERANCE OF ANY ONE POWER.

3. LEE STRESSED " ORDERLY" WAY U. S. ENDED VIET- NAM WAR, WITH THIEU STILL IN CHARGE OF MOST POPULATED AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, NOTING " THERE WAS NO VIET CONG VICTORY. HANOI WILL BE QUIET FOR A WHILE, UNLESS MASSIVE MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID IS AGAIN PUMPED IN BY THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA". HE SAID THAT EVEN IF SVN SUBSEQUENTLY TAKEN OVER BY COMMUNISTS, IT IS NO LONGER TRUE THAT REST OF SEA WILL AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOW. THIS IS BECAUSE U. S. INTERVENTION IN SVN BROKE " HYPNOTIC SPELL" ON REST OF SEA THAT HAD MADE THEM THINK COMMUNISM IRRESISTIBLE.

4. ON THAILAND, LEE SAID THAT " CRUCIAL FACTOR IS WHETHER THEY BELIEVE THEY CAN DEPEND ON AMERICAN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID, AS SPELT OUT UNDER THE GUAM DOCTRINE". IF PROSPERITY CAN BE SPREAD TO OUTER PROVINCES, GUERRILLA THREAT WILL NOT BE SERIOUS.

5. WHEN ASKED ABOUT CONTINUING U. S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN ASIA, LEE SAID FACT IS THERE IS SUCH A PRESENCE AND AN EQUILIBRIUM HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT SHOULD NOT BE UPSET BY SUDDEN DISENGAGEMENT.

6. ON THE RECONSTRUCTION OF NORTH VIETNAM, LEE SAID U. S. PARTICIPATION IS HIGHLY DESIRABLE FROM INTERNATIONAL POINT OF VIEW, SO THAT NORTH VIETNAM WILL NOT BE ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON CHINA AND USSR. IF U. S. CAN OVERCOME EMOTIONAL DOMESTIC RESISTENCE TO SUCH AID, HISTORY WILL JUDGE US FAVORABLY. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT A GREAT POWER SHOW MAGNAMIMITY.

7. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHETHER LEE EXPECTS USSR AND PRC TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN SEA, SO THAT COUNTRIES IN REGION CAN MAINTAIN THEIR NEUTRALITY, PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED THAT WORDS MEAN NOTHING, NOTING THAT PRC HAS PUBLICLY ENDORSED NEUTRALIZATION. LEE SAID BALANCE OF " NAVAL TASK FORCES" IN THE AREA IS A MORE PRACTICAL GUARANTEE OF NON- INTERFERENCE THAN WORDS.

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8. ON RELATIONS WITH THE PRC, LEE SAID HE WOULD LET

NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES TAKE THE LEAD IN ESTABLISHING  
DIPLOMATIC TIES. AS REGARDS PRC APPEALS TO LOCAL CHINESE  
POPULATIONS, LEE BELIEVES PRC WILL BEHAVE CORRECTLY AND  
PROPERLY TOWARDS SEA STATES SO LONG AS IT HAS PROBLEMS  
WITH THE USSR AND NEEDS SUPPORT. HE EXPECTS THIS PHASE  
WILL LAST FOR 10 OR 15 YEARS, BUT THEN A SECOND PHASE WILL  
BEGIN. BUT AT THAT TIME THERE WILL ALSO BE A NEW GENERA-  
TION OF SINGAPOREANS, MORE SOPHISTICATED AND BETTER ABLE  
TO RESIST THE BLANDISHMENTS OF PEKING.

9. FULL TEXT PREPARED REMARKS BEING POUCHED. ROGERS

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

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**To:** BANGKOK  
CANBERRA  
JAKARTA  
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LONDON  
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